

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A process for continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product, wherein the water-absorbent resin comes being continuously produced via a classification step and a surface-modifying step following a step of polymerizing a monomer and a step of drying, wherein the water-absorbent resin has a mass-average particle diameter of 200 to 700 μm (according to JIS-standardized sieves) after the classification, and contains particles of not smaller than 1,000 μm (according to JIS-standardized sieves) in the range of less than 5.0 mass %,

which comprises the following steps of:

(A) measuring a water-absorbent resin by its predetermined property and/or its predetermined component content after the classification step and/or a surface-modifying step;

(B) separating a predetermined amount of water-absorbent resin (a) from the water-absorbent resin that comes being continuously produced, wherein the water-absorbent resin (a) is a water-absorbent resin which displays not less than a definite value and/or a water-absorbent resin which displays not more than a definite value as to the predetermined property and/or the predetermined component content in accordance with results of the aforementioned measurement; and

(C) mixing at least a portion of the aforementioned separated predetermined amount of water-absorbent resin (a) into a water-absorbent resin that comes being continuously produced via a classification step and/or a surface-modifying step on the same or another production line, wherein the water-absorbent resin (a) is mixed without being substantially modified.

2. (Original) A process for continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product according to claim 1, wherein the mixing in the aforementioned step (C) is carried out on the way of the production line.

3. (Previously presented) A process for continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product according to claim 1,

further comprising the step of changing a production condition in accordance with results of step (A).

4. (Original) A process for continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product according to claim 1, wherein the aforementioned water-absorbent resin which is measured by its predetermined property and/or its predetermined component content is a water-absorbent resin product that is finally obtained via the surface-modifying step.

5. (Original) A process for continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product according to claim 1, wherein the aforementioned predetermined property and/or the aforementioned predetermined component content is at least one member selected from the group consisting of absorption capacity without load, absorption capacity under load, liquid permeability, and particle diameters.

6. (Previously presented) A process for continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product according to claim 5, wherein the particle diameters of the water-absorbent resin having a mass-average particle diameter of 300 to 600 μm and having particles of 850

to 150 μm (according to JIS-standardized sieve) in an amount of 95 to 100 mass % are measured by a laser diffraction scattering method.

Claims 7-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) A process for continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product according to claim 1, wherein the water-absorbent resin has particles of 850 to 150 μm (according to JIS-standardized sieve) in an amount of 95 to 100 mass %.

12. (Previously presented) A process for continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product according to claim 1, wherein the mixing in step (C) is carried out in a dry manner.

13. (Previously presented) A process for continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product according to claim 1, wherein the yield of the water-absorbent resin per line is not less than 20 t (metric tons)/day.

14. (Previously presented) A process for continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product according to claim 1, wherein the water-absorbent resin contains a carboxyl group, and the surface-modifying step is carried out by dehydration-reactable crosslinking agent which can react with the carboxyl group by dehydration esterification and/or dehydration amidation.

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) A process for continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the water-absorbent resin (a) separated in the step (B) and mixed to the water-absorbent resin is not larger than 10 mass % relative to the entirety.

17. (Previously presented) A process for continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product according to claim 1, wherein the amount of water-absorbent resin (a) separated in the step (B) is 20 to 0.001 mass % relative to the total amount of the water-absorbent resin as produced.

18. (Previously presented) A process for continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product according to claim 1, wherein the obtained water-absorbent resin satisfy the following:

- (1) a mass-average particle diameter of 300 to 600 μm ;
- (2) a residual monomer content of not higher than 500 ppm;
- (3) an absorption capacity of not less than 25 g/g without load;
- (4) an absorption capacity of not less than 20 g/g under a load of 1.9 kPa or 4.9 kPa;

and

- (5) a fine powder (smaller than 150 μm) content of less than 5.0 mass %.

19. (Previously presented) A process for continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product according to claim 6, wherein the laser diffraction scattering method is carried out in the dry measurement.

20. (New) A process for continuous production of a water-absorbent resin product according to claim 1, wherein the water-absorbent resin (a) in step (C) is mixed without surface treatment and/or granulation.